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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

8

Application Number	10/063,145
Filing Date	March 25, 2002
First Named Inventor	Barnes, Roderick L.
Art Unit	2167
Examiner Name	Black, Linh
Attorney Docket Number	P-8445

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Gunn & Lee, P.C.		
Signature			
Printed name	Eric W. Cernyar		
Date	September 15, 2005	Reg. No.	45,919

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Signature			
Typed or printed name	Amy Doyle	Date	September 15, 2005

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09-16-05

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P-8445

September 15, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
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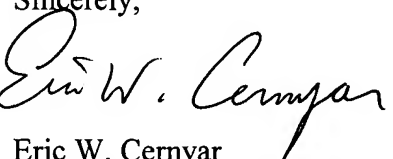
RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/063,145 filed March 25, 2002, entitled "Relational Database Drill-Down Convention and Reporting Tool"

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the following items for filing on the above-referenced patent application:

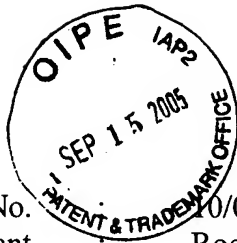
1. Transmittal Form with Certificate of Transmission/Mailing;
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a);
3. Check in the amount of \$60.00, representing the extension fee;
4. Interview Summary; and
5. Acknowledgment Card.

Please stamp the enclosed acknowledgment card with the date of receipt and return it to my office for our records.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Cernyar

EWC/ad
Enclosures
cc: Roderick L. Barnes (w/encl.)

G:\TDL\BIF Technologies\P-8445\Cover Ltr Interview Summary & EOT.doc



Appl. No. : 10/063,145
Applicant : Roderick L. Barnes
Filed : 03/25/2002
Title : Relational Database Drill-Down Convention and Reporting Tool
Assignee : BIF Technologies Corp.
TC/A.U. : 2177
Examiner : Black, Linh
Docket No. : BIF.001

Confirmation Number: 2719

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The undersigned thanks Examiner Linh Black and Primary Examiner John Breene for the interview granted on August 30, 2005, regarding the merits of the above-noted patent application. The undersigned noted that claim 20 requires the “first query language instruction” to include a “linking instruction.” To illustrate this element, the undersigned directed the Examiners’ attention to Fig. 5 of the application, which provides an example of a query language instruction (550) that includes a linking instruction (564). The undersigned noted that the Tabb reference did not teach or suggest defining drill-down linking relationships between reports from within a query language instruction. The undersigned further distinguished the Tabb reference using the same arguments made on pages 16-18 of Applicant’s March 15, 2005 Response to the (First) Office Action.

With respect to claim 22, the undersigned noted that claim 22 specifies a result set handling module operable to identify drill-down-report-specifying metadata in a result set generated by a query, and an event handling module operable to retrieve, in response to user requests, report pattern objects corresponding to the drill-down reports specified in the metadata of the result set. To illustrate an example of drill-down-report-specifying

metadata in a result set, the undersigned directed the Examiners' attention to Fig. 6, which depicts a result set that includes drill-down-report-specifying metadata in column 660. The undersigned argued that while the Bakalash reference includes some of the same keywords used in the claim, the Bakalash reference did not connect the elements together in the manner specified by claim 22.

As of August 30, 2005, the Examiners indicated that they understood the application better as a result of the interview. Although no agreement was, at that time, reached on the merits of the claims, no disagreement with the undersigned's arguments were expressed. Examiner Black stated that she would review the claims and the Tabb and Bakalash references again in light of the interview, decide whether to maintain the rejections, withdraw the rejections but issue new rejections in light of any newly found prior art, or to allow the claims.

On September 2, 2005, I received another call from Examiner Black. She asked if Applicant would agree to an examiner's amendment to claim 20, to recite "a computer-implemented method...", an amendment that I understand was requested for procedural reasons. In light of the fact that claim 20 was already inherently limited to "computer implemented methods," I agreed to the Examiner's Amendment. Examiner Black also asked for clarification of independent claim 22. Given the Examiner's different understanding of the term "metadata" in the claim, I suggested an Examiner's Amendment that would substitute "a drill-down-report linking identifier" for "drill-down-report-specifying metadata." The Examiner stated that she expected to make these amendments and enter a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric W. Cernyar". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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